MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1981

Pakistan

Citing an official spokesman, Karachi radio reported that the Pakistani Government has agreed to release 55 prisoners as demanded by the hijackers of a Pakistani airliner now in Damascus, on the condition that the hijackers make no further demands and release the hostages and aircraft immediately. Six of the 55 prisoners are not in custody, the spokesman noted, and their whereabouts are not known. When they are found they will also be allowed to leave Pakistan, he added. The radio also reported that in a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the offer will lapse automatically if the hijackers harm any of their hostages.

According to a later Karachi radio report, Pakistani Ambassador to Syria Sarfaraz Khan told newsmen in Damascus that no deadline has been set for the release and transfer of the prisoners and hostages. All that remains to be done, he said, is to work out the procedures, and there is "no chance of any difficulty" in doing this. Delhi radio quoted the ambassador as saying that the hijackers want their prisoners and families to be flown to Libya and that the Pakistani authorities would agree to this. According to SANA, the hijackers had earlier threatened to kill the American passengers on board the plane if their demands were not met by 1600 GMT on 12 March. They claimed to have information proving that the Americans are U.S. intelligence agents.

Afghanistan

A DRA Government statement carried by BAKHTAR has accused the United States of openly siding with Afghan "counterrevolutionaries." Criticizing President Ronald Reagan's 9 March remark that the United States would consider a request for arms from the Afghan rebels, the statement added that "interference into the affairs of the DRA" has become official U.S. policy. This, it said, is a "crude and flagrant" violation of international law and the UN Charter. The statement added, however, that the days when the United States could "dictate its will" are gone and that its "adventurist" plans are doomed to fail. Citing a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, AFP reported that Pakistan will not allow the shipment of U.S. arms through its territory to Afghan rebels fighting the DRA Government. The spokesman added that his government is trying to secure a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem and therefore does not intend to become involved in an armed conflict.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Cease-Fire Deadline--In a statement to SPA, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti expressed regret that, because of conditions raised by both Iran and Iraq, it is not possible for them to reach a cease-fire by the 13 March deadline stipulated in the Islamic good offices committee peace proposals. He added that the committee will continue its efforts to resolve the conflict.

Ramadan Interview--In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, published on 10 March, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated that Iraqi withdrawal from Iranian territory will begin only after a cease-fire is established and agreement is reached on the "legitimate rights" of both sides and on noninterference in each other's internal affairs. "Not one" Iraqi soldier will be withdrawn, he stressed, until Iran "recognizes Iraq's rights fully." He asserted that both Iran and Iraq have abrogated the 1975 Algiers agreement on control of the Shatt al-'Arab and on border demarcation and that Iraq "will not go back to it." He added, however,

that it could provide the framework for a new agreement. Referring to the Iranian province of Khuzestan, which Iraq calls "Arabistan," Ramadan said that although Iraq does not want to annex it, Arabistan's people are Arab and the Iranian Government must grant them their rights. The Greater and Lesser Tunb Islands and Abu Musa Island are also Arab, he said, and "must return to Arab hands."

Iran

Tehran radio reported that the Defense Ministry and gendarmerie are to "completely change" the conscription law. Citing the chief of the "draft department," the radio said military service will be extended to 2 years and a system of rewards and punishments will be introduced. Students who completed their military service in 1977 are to be recalled to active service, the department chief said.

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DRA STATEMENT ON REAGAN REMARKS, 'HOSTILE' U.S. STAND

LD130640 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 13 Mar 81

["DRA Government Statement"--BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, 12 Mar (BAKHTAR)--The following is full text of the statement made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan today:

On the 9th of March the U.S. President R. Reagan at his press conference for the TV reporters made a statement in which he said that if the "Afghan mujahiddins" (this is the term the American President applies to the counterrevolutionary bandits and mercenaries) requested arms from the United States his administration would consider such a request. A similar statement was made a day before by the U.S. Secretary of Defence Mr Weinberger.

It is well known that the American imperialistic circles from the very beginning took an openly hostile stand towards the national-democratic revolution in Afghanistan. United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) soon after the April Revolution started to organize on a large scale the armed intervention and provocations against the DRA. The CIA was charged with organizing, arming, equipping and training Afghan counter-revolutionary groups on the territory of Pakistan. Using its paid agents the CIA also tried to bring together various counter-revolutionary groups into one subversive anti-Afghan organization. By various channels American weapons, including chemical weapons, were supplied to the mercenaries.

The scale of American support of the counter-revolutionary bands intensified after their agent Amin was removed from power in December 1979 and the new stage of the April, Revolution began.

However the U.S. intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan until recently was of a covert character: official U.S. circles denied any direct involvement on the side of the Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

The new American administration headed by President R. Reagan apparently has decided to side openly with the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and proclaimed the policy of interference into the affairs of the DRA as its official policy.

Such a turn in the U.S. policy with respect of the DRA can not be interpreted in any other way but as a crude and flagrant violation of the basic norms of international law and the UN Charter. It is a part and parcel of the global adventurist and aggressive strategy of the U.S. imperialism aimed at changing the world balance of power in its favour and reversing the policy of detente, whipping up the arms race, threatening independence and sovereignty of the developing countries.

It is well known that U.S. imperialism is stepping up its military activities in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. It is hurriedly establishing a network of its military bases in Egypt, Oman, Somalia, Kenya, and is deploying in this area the so-called Rapid Deployment Force under the pretext of "safeguarding the oil supply routes in the Gulf."

With respect to Afghanistan the new American administration is trying to pursue the same policy as it pursues in other parts of the world; the policy of armed intervention, of destabilization of progressive regimes, installing there its puppets and military dictatorships.

But gone are the days when the U.S. imperialism could dictate its will to the freedom-loving people of the world. Gone are the days when Washington could install regimes of its liking in various countries. The balance of forces in the modern world is such that the adventurist aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism are doomed to failure.

With or without U.S. support, the sinister plans of the enemies of the glorious Afghan revolution will be crushed by the Afghan people and the Afghan Army.

It should be pointed out that such an open and brazen interference of the United States into the internal affairs of the DRA can only delay the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan by political means to which some of the U.S. politicians pay a lip service. Instead of creating favourable conditions for such a settlement the United States aggravates the situation by pouring oil upon the flames. The responsibility for such a course will fairly and squarely rest with the United States.

ECONOMIC ADVISER TO KARMAL DEFECTS IN NEW DELHI

BK130814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0751 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 13 Mar (AFP)--A top-ranking aide to Afghan President Babrak Karmal has defected, accusing the Afghan president of backing out from his promise that Soviet troops would be asked to go home by the beginning of this year.

Mohammed Siddiq Farhang, economic adviser to the president, arrived in the Indian capital early this week on the pretext of medical treatment, but sent his resignation letter soon after his arrival.

"When I accepted the assignment, Mr Karmal had assured me that the Soviet troops would be withdrawn within a year and that the future of the country would be decided by the representatives of the people", 67-year-old Mr Farhang said.

"Since after more than one year (of Soviet intervention), none of the promises had been fulfilled, I saw no reason in continuing to serve the regime", Mr Farhang, who came here with his wife, said. Mr Farhang's children are now in Afghanistan. He, however, did not give details.

Mr Farhang, who has been imprisoned more than once for his nationalist views, said majority of the Afghan people wanted the 85,000 Soviet troops to go home immediately.

"We are all opposed to the presence of foreign troops in our country...we want them to go back...the pre-requisite of a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue is a declaration fixing an early and firm date for the withdrawal of Soviet troops", Mr Farhang said.

Mr Farhang is the first top ranking Afghan official to defect this year.

SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN NEW DEHLI

BK121151 Dehli General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] An 11-member Soviet trade delegation led by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Boris Gordeyev arrived in New Dehli today to make an on-the-spot study of the prospect of buying new types of consumer goods and raw materials.

Talking to newsmen, Gordeyev said the purpose of the visit is to ensure the implementation and realization of the protocol on bilateral trade between the two countries and the 5-year trade agreement signed during the visit of Mr Brezhnev last year.

He said that Indian goods have earned a good reputation in his country and that India ranks first among the developing countries in the trade turnover with his country.

INDIAN EXPRESS COMMENTS ON 'TURMOIL IN PAKISTAN'

BK121536 New Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Turmoil in Pakistan"]

[Text] If the student agitation in Pakistan last month provided the proverbial straw in the wind, the widespread strikes on Monday point to the weathervane itself. Thousands of lawyers joined striking doctors and school teachers to bring the country's legal, medical and educational systems to a halt. While the teachers and doctors have struck work ostensibly in support of their demand for more pay, the lawyers made no bones about their action being in response to the opposition call for a protest against the military regime.

By all accounts, the escalating protest marks the most serious challenge to General Haq's dictatorial dispensation. For the first time since he brought the country under martial law three and a half years ago, the sentiment against the military regime has erupted into open defiance by people outside the confines of political parties. The turning point came some weeks ago with the victory of leftist and pro-Pakistan People's Party candidates in elections to college and university unions. The outcome provided a clear signal not only of the simmering discontent in the volatile student community but of student readiness to express their political affiliation openly. This was followed by the unprecedented coming together of almost all the opposition parties in a concerted movement for restoration of democracy. Nine major parties passed a resolution demanding the resignation of General Haq and free elections within three months. There are other significant signs of the emerging popular temper--the unprecedented criticism of press censorship by some newspapers and journalists' organisations, the coming together of Pakistanis abroad in concerted opposition to the military dictatorship, and individual acts of coercion and terrorism like the bomb blast in the stadium where the visiting pope was to say mass last month and Monday's hijacking of a Pakistani International Airlines plane to Kabul.

General Haq's predictably repressive response to the snowballing unrest may well stem the tide, but there is every indication that he will find it increasingly difficult to buy durable peace without making some major concessions to the opposition. According to Benazir Bhutto, the opposition has "declared war" on General Haq and unless the regime lifts press censorship in the next few weeks and expresses its willingness to talk about restoration of democracy, the opposition will launch the second phase of the agitation by calling for a Pakistan bandh [strike] on March 23.

U.S. ARMS TO AFGHANS VIA PAKISTAN PROSCRIBED

OW130649 Hong Kong AFP in English 1722 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Islamabad, 12 Mar (AFP)--Pakistan today said that it would not allow its territory to be used to ship U.S. arms to Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet-installed regime in Kabul.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, responding to recent comments by President Ronald Reagan, said that Pakistan was trying to secure a peaceful settlement to the Afghan crisis. "Pakistan does not intend to become involved in an armed conflict at a time when it is trying, through representative international organisations, to secure the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan," the spokesman added. It was also calling for "a return to a climate of peace in Afghanistan, the chance for the Afghan people to choose its own government and the creation of conditions favouring the return of Afghan refugees to their own country," he said.

Different rebel groups within the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan are meanwhile divided on the question of Western military aid. Sayed Ahmed Gailani, leader of the National Islamic Front, who favours the return to [word indistinct] of exiled King Zaher Shah, has on a number of occasions asked for Western military aid. Mr Gailani visited the United States shortly before Mr Reagan indicated that he was not opposed to U.S. arms supplies going to the Afghan rebels.

But Professor Abdul Rassul Swayaf, president of the alliance, which includes Mr Gailani's front, has said that rebels have never sought such aid. Professor Swayaf, who has described Mr Gailani as unrepresentative, belongs to the alliance's Moslem fundamentalist wing, which is opposed by Mr Gailani. At the start of the year, the two sides expelled each other from the movement, but the alliance has not been formally dissolved. Professor Swayaf has also rejected the return of King Zaher Shah, whom he described as "the criminal who opened the doors of Afghanistan to communism." The king is in exile in Italy.

Mr Reagan said in a television interview on Monday that if Afghan insurgents fighting Soviet forces asked for arms, he would consider granting their request.

OPPOSITION LEADER MAZARI CONDEMNS HIJACKING

BK121259 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Karachi, 12 Mar (AFP)--Senior opposition politician Sherbaz Mazari, today strongly condemned the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul and from there to Damascus.

In a press statement, Mr Mazari, who heads the banned National Democratic Party, a component of the nine-party movement for restoration of democracy, said his party could "not approve of violent, unconstitutional and illegal methods to achieve the noble objectives of the restoration of democracy and a representative government" in Pakistan.

He said "to play with the lives of innocent people to gain publicity in attaining political objectives is a reprehensible act and the National Democratic Party appeals to the hijackers to release the hostages immediately."

Mazari added: "The cold-blooded and senseless murder of Tariq Rahim has shocked the entire nation. No words are strong enough to condemn this dastardly act and those who are responsible for it." At the same time, he said if normal constitutional political activities were restored by the military regime of General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the extremist elements who took law into their own hands and indulged in unconstitutional acts of sabotage and terrorism would be discouraged."

ARDABILI SCORES BANI-SADR FOR NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

LD131010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Speech by Iranian state Prosecutor General Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili on 12 March, recorded--place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The subject of my message tonight is the course adopted by Mr Bani-Sadr, the president, and the editorial office of his newspaper.

The paper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI published something last night quite contrary to my humble message. My recommendation was the following: Let us work together to calm this tense atmosphere, so that the people's strong feelings may be quieted! Let us review the problems in a healthy atmosphere! The newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI carried as headlines the following statements by the president of the republic: I Stand Strong and Firm and I Will Not Give In to Injustice, Even at the Cost of Resigning! This was one title. Our Radio and Television Have Become Precisely What They Used To Be During the Era of the Former Regime! This was the second. This Republic Is Not a Republic of Which I Can Be Proud To Be President! This was the third. They are beginning to crush the organs of our society. From my standpoint, this course of events is a plot that will continue as long as you people remain unaware of it and have no other aim except to remove the president of the republic!

Any person who happens to like this newspaper and who happens to like the president of the republic, when he reads this title--what can his state of mind be when he reads this title? Won't he think that the realm has become disrupted, that the republic has gone to pieces, that the radio and television have become precisely what they were during the era of the former shah's regime, that they will remove the president of the republic? Wouldn't such a person lose hope, turn despondent, become angry and start fighting? Wouldn't he worry about the future and rue the past? In a tense atmosphere, in a society beset with thousands of problems, the first of which is the war, should we speak like that and carry such headlines?

At such a time I humbly beg to say: Gentlemen, responsible authorities, ayatollahs, professors, structures, organizations, personages, personalities, please bear the situation in mind and let the atmosphere calm down, so that the judicial apparatus may do its work!

That course, that line of action is completely contrary to what we want. If everyone were to adopt such a course, God knows what would happen!

After the publication of these headlines, they telephoned me from the radio and television, saying: You say: Do not say anything, in case a problem should arise, but then such and such has been written by the leader in ENQELAB-E ESLAMI. I asked: Maybe you? [as heard] They said: We have censored what you wrote?

I said: No. I said: Perhaps you did not broadcast any of the president's announcements and statements. They said: There was not even a single announcement or statement bearing the signature of the president that we did not broadcast. I said: Perhaps some were signed by his office? They said: We read them all, except a letter addressed to you. We read this letter to you and you said: It is not necessary to publish this. Of course, this was correct.

The office of the president of the republic wrote me a letter and they gave it to the radio and television to broadcast.

But then it was not at all necessary for the radio and television to broadcast a private letter that an office wrote to me. I said: No, there is no problem [as heard]. I said: There was no problem apart from that.

As to the sentence: This republic is not a republic of which I can be proud to be president! I do not think that the friends of the president--anybody who is his friend and whose friendship he trusts, provided it is a sound friendship, provided he is a sound friend who harbors a sound friendship--were the president to ask him his opinion, that friend would [word indistinct] him for this sentence. The same goes for the last sentence.

I beg to say: Mr President, my dear brother, kindly look carefully at what you have written and read it again. You have seized and leaned on certain things. You have often leaned on the sayings of the imam in the reply to that letter and now here you said that the imam said: The president rules the hearts; and the views of the imam, the sayings of the imam, should be permanently respected. You leaned on the fact that a government of club wielders, no matter what it is, should disappear. You said: It is a plot and this plot should be wiped out; as for the government of club wielders, everyone says it should disappear. Only, the removal of this government of club wielders requires preparations.

Today two people from your office came to me in connection with my remarks last night. A letter was written, followed by a phone call, discussing two issues: The first was about protection, or the presidential guard; the second was about those knives and so on. This morning two people from the president's office came to me. They brought me those various implements and it was agreed that they would return on Saturday, so that legal arrangements can be made. They had not taken any measures about the first part of the letter and I reminded them that this is not very nice, to let 4 days elapse without a reply. The armed forces communique [No 432] is insufficient from a legal point of view. One of the people who came knew about legal matters and said: You are right, on Saturday we will provide you with replies to that section of the letter and bring them to you. I said that if the president is worried that the legal machinery supports those who chant slogans, make insults, throw stones and so on, his excellency should know that this is not true. Nobody supports them. However, everybody admits the principle of the matter--that on Thursday [5 March] such an incident took place at such and such a place [Tehran University], but if people want to know who the people involved were, who the individuals were, whether the arrests were made lawfully, whether there were beatings--the photographs show people attacking each other, strangling each other, throwing each other from heights--should these matters be dealt with by the judicial system or not? Just because several were arrested and imprisoned does not mean the arrested were the culprits. That same newspaper published the observations of one of those arrested at the university incident about matters behind the scenes. A person named Mr Gudarzi--who, according to his own testimony and according to ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, was not one of the club wielders--was arrested by mistake and taken away. He is also one of your supporters. If someone is arrested, it does not mean that he is a club wielder.

In the first days after the incident, the newspapers published a photograph of my son, but they did not mention him by name. Then someone showed it to me and I thought he might have been among them. I asked him about this later and he said: Yes, I was standing there and one of the mojahedin saw me and told them: Musavi Ardabili's son is here. They attacked me, beat me and then took me to the same place that they took the others. Someone from Mr Bani-Sadr's office saw me and gave me a lift home in his car. Of course, this is what my son says and we will also investigate whether this is true or not.

Arrest is no proof of guilt, whether this refers to my son, your brother Mr Gudarzi, or anyone else. They must be investigated.

If they are to be questioned, do not think, dear brother, that they will be treated with any special favor. Have patience to see whether in the end justice is enforced--the kind of justice about which you say: I shall not yield to injustice; I want justice.

Regarding the fact of your annoyance [words indistinct]. This is correct, I told the gentlemen who came from your office to see me today. My brother, this is our procedure, you are a judge and a lawyer as well. If there is a better way of doing the job, then please tell me what to do. He said to me: There is no better way than this; your way is the best. Therefore, you should be sure [words indistinct]. I do not know whether God will help us or not, whether the other brothers will help or not, whether other organs and institutions want to or not nor what will happen in the future. Last night, and in the past, I said: If no one wants it, the job will not be done. I hope, God willing, that everybody wants it.

In your article, I felt that you resented being told: Justice must be enforced, even in the case of the president. You were annoyed about it being said that the law must be implemented, even in the case of the president. Dear brother, do you expect anything but this? Do you think that the law must be implemented in the case of the weak and not in the case of the strong; that it must not be enforced in the case of those at senior levels? I don't think so. Surely you do not advocate this; not only you, but everybody. Dear brother, weren't you present at the council of experts, together with us and the others? Did you yourself, together with us, not vote in favor of the rule: If, one day, there is a complaint against one person, against a second person, against anyone, they should be tried at public courts? We all voted for this as an Islamic honor. Why, Heaven forbid, should you be upset about this sentence, or express annoyance? The sentences that are written here and below are your own writing.

My dear brother, Mr President, in the letter that you wrote to me today, you have written something about which I agree. You wrote: Your Excellency the public prosecutor, I wish to assure you that I am completely prepared; Iran's history will record today's action of the judiciary system; beware that they do not record it like this--that they created a scene in which they condoned the club wielders, condemned he president and society and dealt the last blow to the Islamic Republic. I read this sentence of yours from the letter and endorse it; I endorse its first part. I think that instead of saying the president and the club wielders, you should say: They justified the unjust and showed the just as unjust. In return I have something to say to you, Mr President: Instead of these exciting and inciting words, and instead of these words that create unrest among the people, are you aware what the people expect of you? I want--and so do a lot of people, I think--that instead of doing this, in this [word indistinct] atmosphere and this [word indistinct] society, if you were to say: For the salvation of society, the revolution and Islam, because of our bitter experience of last Thursday--the wounded, the clashes, [words indistinct]--I have decided that I will not cause such gatherings, and cancel my invitations and convey my messages to the public via the mass media, as long as the atmosphere has not (?cleared), as long as there are those who disturb gatherings, until all of this has ended, so that that scene will not recur. As the country's number two personality, the people expect you to say: Enforce the law, start with me, instead of these remarks. (?You have called for a purge); it is quite right. They have infiltrated these organizations. I want to ask: Have they infiltrated the coordination bureau [daftar-e hamahangi] or not? Is there not a possibility that they have infiltrated the president's office? They are not all angels. If you were to say these words, with the same tone, and were to act accordingly: Let us purge these organizations, and start with the coordination bureau; if the people were to see that their president has foregone the invitations that he made previously, for the sake of society's peace; that he is saying: Start with me, for the sake of the rule of law; that for these organizations to be purged, he proposes that you start with his office, with the coordination bureau; that those newspapers that are against the path of the revolution are reformed; if he were to say: Start with ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, then, instead of all the unrest and anxiety, the people would feel only calmness.

Instead of (?worrying) about the future, the people would feel. [as heard] I am not saying that you should just say this, but that you should really act. You should seriously say: Reform this bureau, (?enforce) the law and start with me, instead of one side saying this and the other saying that, which upsets the people and is not in accordance with Islamic and religious standards.

As you said to me--quite rightly, too--history will judge us, I say the same thing to you. If you were to take this course and assist in the establishment and maintenance of the rule of law, even against yourself, if you were to start the purge with your own office, with yourself, with your own home, your own friends, you would be named as a model Islamic president in the world and in history; but only if you were to wish this and say it, that: I am saying this, I am canceling the invitations, the sessions, I shall purge the bureau, I accept that the law should start with me. [Words indistinct] clubs and club wielding and disruption should really be ended in Iran.

I hope, God willing, that you will accept my brotherly words and wish for justice and law, though it might be against you, wish for a purge, though it might be in your office--that which you have sought between the lines in your article, even in a severe tone, is no doubt your wish, and I have no proof that it is not--so that the people can trust such a fair president with complete confidence, so that society can be saved from this problem. If what I am saying is true, I hope that you will accept it; if it is not true then I call upon God as my witness that I have said this to you with the belief that it is true, as far as I can understand it, that I am saying this as advice. I interpret your letter as reflecting good intentions; you have asked me not to mar my name in history. May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

KHAMENE'I COMMENTS ON CLASHES, CHAOS IN SOCIETY

GF131209 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0858 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Friday first sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 13 March, in Persian, simultaneously paraphrased in Arabic--live]

[Excerpts] Our people carried out a revolution and rid themselves of instability. Before, you did not have the right to speak freely. You were even restricted in hearing the words of others. At the time, freedom was not allowed. All means were used to deprive others of their freedom. The revolution was carried out by the people themselves. The freedoms were won by the people themselves. Today no one can be blamed for objecting to any action by the state. [15-second pause by translator]

He [not further identified] says words in the press, statements and speeches reflecting that person's personal views. The people talk among themselves as they are free to do. They talk at meetings--they are free. This freedom can serve our revolution. This freedom has been rightly established in our land and our revolution. It continues to exist. However, there is a basic issue: These freedoms are rights of our society and our people. The exercise of these freedoms is the legal duty of our people and society. The people and individuals can freely exercise this right, unless certain hands try to (?usurp) the freedom of individuals and create instability in society. In this case, benefitting from this blessing, won with difficulty and hardship, will not be allowed.

The superpowers seek to achieve this instability in our society. All the big powers are opposed to our Islamic revolution. In the East and in the West, their policy is to change our society into an unstable one, a society in which no one can voice his view. Second [as heard], if a view is voiced, the others do not tolerate it.

The world's policy toward us is to create general convulsions in our society, seeking to achieve this policy by various means. They incite people and individuals of various leanings. With their imperialist policy, they seek to create a revolution in the society. The press is misled and carried away. They seek to harness the press, to follow their policies and desires. The result is well known.

At a time when there are differences in views--for instance, in part of the bazaars or in a school...[sentence unfinished by translator]

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i says that imperialism is searching for any means to create chaos and instability using various methods, for instance the press, some bazaars, a school. The aim is to create confusion, chaos and instability in the country. The result is also known. The result is that they are seeking to divide the people--this great rocklike unity of the various strata of the Iranian people.

The hands of imperialism seek to create calamities in our society. The result is also known. The Iranian people have triumphed in unity. If there was Islam without unity, our revolution would not have triumphed. [cheers]

Our imam said: "The symbol of our victory is our unity." These are the words of this man of God. If we are divided we shall lose an element essential to the fighting. That is the enemy's objective. That has been his objective from the very first day of our victory. He is trying hard to achieve this objective. What you are experiencing these days are new tactics by imperialism.

Just as I did last week, I condemn the incidents that occurred the previous Thursday [5 March]. I condemn the actions of those hypocritical groups.

I am addressing you, brothers and sisters, in all parts of the country. I do not want to say who is right; that is the task of the judicial authorities. What I want to say is that if your words are right and your slogans are correct and your heart is with the Koran and Islam, then today you will find your words increasing the chaos. Do not say what you want to say. If you find that your slogans create chaos, do not raise slogans.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i advises the masses to unite behind the giant Islamic revolution under the leadership of the nation's imam, Imam Khomeyni. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i stressed the need to achieve stability and to avoid creating instability. He says: I do not ask you to placate iniquity. His eminence calls for unity in the face of the vile enemy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin refers to the glee of the enemy and imperialism at what happened on Thursday. He says that the BBC, the VOA, the German radio and particularly Baghdad radio are interpreted in a way that is firmly refuted by the people. [sentence as heard] You should realize that your enemies in the world want such events to happen. The people know this. Those who did not know realized it when they were bitten.

Those who created chaos are little, trivial and insignificant groups. [shouts] Those who created chaos are supporters of Satan and a minority. They are servants of leftist and nonleftist wings. These are the people who create disturbances, and I ask the judicial authorities to pass judgment on this matter in front of the people, who are asking about this matter. My advice to you is: Look out everywhere for slogans raised to provoke you. You should realize this and be vigilant and on the lookout. The enemy is seeking to create disturbances and instability in our society. Chaos would confirm what Reagan said: The Government of Iran does not serve the people. Consequently, chaos and instability in society are the aims of these enemies. Our duty is to establish stability in our society.

Tehran Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i thanks the congregation for not raising provocative slogans. He says right towers above everything else, and iniquity is doomed to defeat.

KHOMEYNI ASKED TO ACT AGAINST FACTIONALISM

LD131230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The glorious Friday prayers were held today in Qom under the imamate of the illustrious theologian Ayatollah Montazeri.

In his first sermon, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri referred to pagans, infidels and those who have confronted Islam and in this connection criticized the nationalists who are standing against the Islamic revolution. He said: Saddam has waged war and spread hatred against the Muslim people, under the pretext of defending Arab nationalism.

At the end of the first sermon, Ayatollah Montazeri explained to our brothers in the armed forces that the majority of armed forces personnel are pious believers. He added: At the same time, it is possible that several biased and uncommitted individuals in the armed forces may weaken and undermine the army. Without any undue modesty, I must say that we can see a hand and a satanic line that is trying to eliminate pious and ideologically motivated individuals. We, more than anybody else, ask the leader of the revolution not to remain silent on this matter. Decisive action must be taken in this connection. America must know that the nation of Iran will no longer be the captive of the superpowers. By relying on Islam, God and the blood of its martyrs, this nation will stand on its own feet and move forward until final victory. It will strengthen the foundations of the Islamic revolution and reject any kind of colonialism, exploitation and [word indistinct].

In his second sermon, referring to the sad incident at Tehran University on Thursday, 5 March 1981, he condemned the incident and said that the prosecutor general and (?the court) must pursue the matter decisively, in order to identify the hands of the Satans and reveal them to the nation. We ask for the imam's assistance in this matter as well, he said.

His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri also explained that such incidents have divided the people into two factions and that each faction is chanting slogans against the other. This matter will make us forget the real enemy, the arch-Satan America.

Ayatollah Montazeri reminded the people that unity and cohesion before the revolution led to victory. He said: Try not to forget the slogan of "Death to America" and unite together with one slogan in Iran and in the world, to defeat the enemies of God and human beings.

RADIO, TV TO ARRANGE DEBATE ON 5 MAR INCIDENT

LD121124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Statement by the public relations department of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued on 12 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful. Following the tragic events of Thursday 5 March at Tehran University, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to preserve its neutrality, deems it its duty to broadcast to the Muslim and martyr-nurturing Iranian nation the replies by individuals or organizations accused by President Bani-Sadr.

Since this organization has also been wrongly accused in the last few days, it plans to arrange a television debate, to inform the public of the truth of the matter. It invites the president and all organizations accused in this speech and wishing to take part in the debate to express their willingness in writing to the public relations department of this organization before the 15 March deadline.

[Signed] The public relations department of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran

RAFSANJANI INTERVIEWED ON WAR, UNITY, OTHER TOPICS

LD131204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Islamic Consultative Assembly Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, accompaned by Majlis representatives of the people of Lorestan, arrived in Khorramabad this morning and was welcomed by the governor general, the governor, the clergy, commanders of the guards corps, army, gendarmerie and the police of Lorestan Province. After his arrival the Majlis speaker met and conferred with the clergy and officials responsible for revolutionary, executive and security organizations at the governor general's office.

In an interview with a Central News Bureau correspondent in Khorramabad today, in reply to the question "What are the Majlis' plans at present?," the Majlis speaker said: The Majlis has extensive plans ahead. Basically, our revolution was devoid of accurate planning; now the Majlis and the authorities are working in coordination to implement fundamental plans. I could say that plans are being prepared in all fields.

Regarding the war imposed by Iraq and the dispatch of various delegations, he said: If a peace pact were to be signed, it would be up to the government to do so; the Majlis' sole responsibility would be to approve the agreement. He added: Of course, the war with Saddam will continue; we should know that this is an experience [as heard]. We shall defend ourselves against the oppressor and, at the same time, we shall preserve unity.

Regarding the rumor that the Majlis intends to weaken and remove the president, he said: The Constitution tells us that we should have a president. We, too, are hopeful that our president will be strong, and we have no intention of weakening him.

Regarding those regions of the country that have not elected representatives to the Majlis to date, he said: I spoke to the interior minister about this matter yesterday afternoon. In view of the incident that stripped the Majlis of its quorum, it has been stressed that elections should be held in regions still without representatives.

Regarding recent incidents, in which authorities from various sectors are involved, the Majlis speaker said: God willing, an attempt will be made to preserve unity; anything disrupting unity is not appropriate right now. He added: We do not consider the current differences to be trivial; they have an ideological foundation. Differences of opinion evolve from different perceptions [bihesh-ha]. But, as I have said, God willing, all authorities of various sections will preserve unity.

Regarding rumors spread by political groups about religious personalities, including the Majlis speaker, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The fact that our country has been freed from suppression has loosened tongues. Political groups and personalities have raised issues but there is doubt that counterrevolutionaries will not be able to ruin the reputation of the authorities, and especially the clergy, no matter what they do. Concerning the issue that they have raised about myself, namely, exporting foreign currency, I have complained about this and it is being investigated. Thus far, four Central Bank employees have been identified and are being sought in connection with spreading that rumor.

RAFSANJANI ADDRESSES RECONSTRUCTION SEMINAR

LD121208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Bureau report, the second session of the national seminar of the reconstruction crusade was held this morning.

It began with the recitation of some verses from the holy Koran, in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. During this session, a group of Iraqi sisters deported from that country sang an Arabic song. Afterward Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a speech, praising the work of the crusade.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly criticized the attitudes of the provisional government toward the revolution foundations, pointing out that the gentlemen who did not find any difficulty in paying pensions to the fugitives [who fled Iran following the revolution] balked at the thought of paying for the creation of installations in rural areas.

RAJA'I MEETS WITH AMAL DELEGATION 11 MAR

GF120502 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] A Lebanese Amal Movement delegation met yesterday afternoon with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. During the meeting, the delegation expressed support for the Islamic revolution in Iran, led by Imam Khomeyni, and emphasized the need for more solidarity between Iranian and Lebanese Muslims.

RAJA'I DEPUTY CONFERS WITH LEBANESE ENVOY

LD121138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the Lebanese charge d'affaires in Tehran met and conferred with Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, deputy prime minister and political adviser to the prime minister. A PARS correspondent reports that at this meeting, which lasted more than 45 minutes, the Lebanese charge d'affaires expressed the desire for an extension of bilateral relations.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are aware of the situation prevailing in Lebanon. We know that because this country is adjacent to occupied Palestine it is constantly being attacked and that the deprived people of Lebanon have to endure many hardships and difficulties. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country that, following the victory of the revolution and due to its Islamic nature, started a continuous struggle against the regime of occupied Palestine. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: It is one of our clear principles to give a positive reply to the appeal of any Muslim, wherever he might be; we also regard struggle against usurping Israel as the duty of every Muslim.

BANI-SADR VISITS FORCES BEHIND KHUZESTAN FRONT

LD121718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, this afternoon Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, inspected the people's forces and army servicemen operating behind the frontline in Khuzestan Province. According to the PARS correspondent's dispatch, Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also took part in the inspection tour. Officials and servicemen, who are operating day and night in that area, informed the president about the progress of their work. Expressing appreciation for their hard work, Dr Bani-Sadr called on them to continue their extensive efforts to achieve a speedy destruction of the Iraqi mercenaries.

COMMUNIQUE 433 REPORTS FIGHTING, CASUALTIES

LD121826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Communique 433 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: We bring the following report on the battle between the forces of Islam and the troops of blasphemy during the past 24 hours to the attention of the revolutionary Muslim nation of Iran:

1. Thanks to the brave combatants of Islam, several enemy positions in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr were destroyed yesterday and more than 10 of Saddam's servicemen were killed. The enemy's crossfire in the same region resulted in the wounding of a brother Navalk recruit.

2. The exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued on all fronts and, thanks to fire by our heroic forces on enemy positions in the Al-Faw region, in Al-Mu'ammir, (Ad-Da'ayji), As-Sibah, Sihan, Umm ar-Rasas and on the banks of the Karun, two ammunition dumps, three vehicles, one cannon, one vehicle with mobile radar and one troop assembly point were destroyed and Al-Faw's oil installations were set ablaze. A total of 12 servicemen from the aggressive Iraqi Army were killed and more than 12 were wounded.

3. Yesterday enemy crossfire on residential areas in Abadan set a number of houses, one library and one hotel ablaze, but the fires were brought under control and put out by firefighting officers. Five persons were martyred during this incident and another 43 were wounded. In the meantime, last night enemy aircraft, flying high, violated Abadan's airspace, but, thanks to our antiaircraft fire, they were forced to flee.

4. On the Karkheh Kur front, our heroic forces' fire on enemy positions resulted in the destruction of 4 enemy tanks, 10 mortars and 6 trenches of Saddam's army; a number of enemy vehicles were damaged as well. A number of enemy servicemen were either killed or wounded during these operations.

5. Yesterday, enemy forces subjected our forces in the Ahvaz region to intense artillery and tank fire and, as a result, 1 of the defenders of the Islamic revolution was martyred and 19 others were wounded.

6. According to figures provided by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 10 March 1981 25 of our men were martyred and hastened to meet God, the protector of the Islamic revolution.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

KHUZESTAN FIGHTING, AHVAZ CASUALTIES REPORTED

LD121716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Text] According to a PARS report in the past 24 hours artillery fighting has been continuing on various fronts in Khuzestan. The defenders of Islam have inflicted casualties and losses upon mercenary Saddam's forces. No accurate figures have yet been dispatched on the extent of losses and casualties. The PARS report, quoting a spokesman for the Khuzestan relief and treatment headquarters, states that in the past 24 hours, 18 combatants of Islam who were wounded on the fronts of Susangerd, Malekiyeh, Mohammadiyeh and Farsiat have been transferred to Ahvaz's hospitals. During this period, the pure body of one of the defenders of Islam, who was martyred in the battle against the mercenary Saddam's forces, was transferred to Ahvaz.

The PARS correspondent adds: The latest statistics put the toll of martyrs of the missile attack carried out 2 nights ago against the residential areas of Ahvaz at 13.